

Report
of the Romsey Urban Sanitary District for the
Year 1895

To
The Romsey Urban Sanitary Authority
Gentlemen.

The Mortality in the Urban District during the year 1895 - owing greatly to the Epidemic of Influenza, was 17 higher than that of 1894, when it was extraordinarily low; yet that for 1895 was still 7 below the average of the last ten years. 60 deaths were registered - nearly half of which (26) occurred during the first three months. In August only one death took place - in March 14 - in the third and fourth quarters only 10 in each. It is remarkable that only one death happened under one year of age (and that from premature birth), - after June! and not one between 1 and 5 years - after February!

Of the 60 Deaths - 12 were under one year of age, being at the rate of 102.5 per 1000 registered births during the year there having been 117 births; one death only, was that of an illegitimate child (and that not born in the District) - only two other deaths were recorded of children under 5 years of age.

Influenza. a few instances of this Disease were noticed in January and the early part of February - but about the middle of this latter month - it appeared to come like a great wave over the District - on no previous year had Influenza prevailed so extensively - whole families were laid low at one time and with it Bronchitis and Pneumonia were inter current - but it proved directly fatal to only 4 persons. but, as in years gone by, it appeared to exercise a general depressing influence upon the nervous - probably upon the organic or sympathetic nervous system: In our own practice whilst only two marked cases

occurred in January 125 were affected with it in February and 87 in March - by the end of the first week in April the Epidemic had well nigh spent its fury; and scarcely a case has occurred subsequently - the disease assumed several distinct types. the nervous - pulmonary - and the gastric.

Diarrhoea. Two deaths only, resulted from this disease one of these returned as Choleraic Diarrhoea, occurred in an adult of 69. after an illness of four days. No special fact could be discovered to account for it; - the other death from this complaint was in a child 2 months old in June. Diarrhoea was prevalent but not epidemic, in September, October and November - not proving fatal in those months - nor were children specially affected: The closing illness of an aged female 93 years old was complicated with Diarrhoea

Measles, were absent from the District throughout the year.

Scarlet Fever of this disease only one mild case was notified.

Diphtheria. a girl of 13 was attacked with this complaint in August - the throat affection was entirely relieved, but paralysis followed, and then purpura with hemorrhages from the bowels; - and the patient ultimately sank from Asthenia, in the early part of November; - the girl had been on a visit from home - nothing could be discovered as a probable cause in the Sanitary Condition of her house, and I have never yet found any certain local cause of Diphtheria but have had good reason to believe that dampness of premises and the proximity of decomposing organic matter - tend to favour the development of the Bacilli. which then in susceptible individuals find a nidus in the fauces and Larynx - and subsequently infect the whole System.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever. Two instances of this Disease were notified: one - a mild case - occurred in July the sister of one who suffered from this Fever last year - the well-water here was bad, but it was stated, that no one drank of it. Another case occurred in a delicate lad - who recovered from the Fever, but Tuberculosis became developed and he ultimately sank.

In May I carried out a house to house visitation through 1° Newton Lane and Court Harrow Lane and Abbey-water. 2° Through Love Lane and Linden Road: there are 55 Tenements in the former and 75 in the latter. I examined nearly every room taking notes of anything requiring it. I sent a number of reports to the Inspector of Nuisances, pointing out defective Conditions and in every case attention has been paid to my requirements. In some groups of Cottages - mostly under one landlord - I found the walls and ceilings filthy - and they and the floors broken: I do not think that some landlords are sufficiently alive to their duty, as such, to keep the tenements they let to the working classes, in proper repair.

In the Newton Lane district there were 2 Cottages with only one bedroom 24 with but 2 and 28 with 3 or upwards. There were 47 Pail closets - 7 water closets and only one C.V.C. Forty-six families obtained water from the S.H.W.C. Service - nine from pumps. The Drainage is mainly into one of the subdivisions of the Test - in a few cases into a Lead well - but it is often difficult if not impossible to obtain any reliable information respecting the drains. I conceive that there should be a public Registry Office - where plans of the drainage of each property should be deposited and especially, as it regards newly erected houses.

In the Love Lane and Linden road District - there were 2 houses with only one bedroom - 51 with only 2 - 16 with 3 or more. There were 55 families using Pail closets - 19 having C.V.C. and one with a water-closet. of the 75 tenements 35 obtained drinking

Water from Pumps - 16 from Draw wells and 24 from the S. H. W. Co service. Two old tenements in Love Lane - have been replaced by a decidedly improved style of building.

Where there are but two bedrooms to a cottage, overcrowding is in many cases unavoidable. Thus: in Newton Lane 2 houses so circumstanced had 9 inmates band 7 under 12 yrs and 3 and 2 above; and in one case there were 4 adults and 6 under 12 years of age. and ^{there were five} ~~in one~~ other less marked instances; the rooms are fairly airy and the windows far from air tight; and if the poor folks are turned out it must be, either into the street, or the workhouse. The Condition of things in this respect is about the same in the Love Lane & Linden Road District.

The Pigstyes - of which there are a considerable number within the District - are a standing nuisance, and are greatly complained of. In dry cold weather they are fairly clean and free from smell, but during the warm summer months or in prolonged mild damp weather, at any time of the year, they are often very offensive, even altho the owners do their utmost to keep them clean.

The action of the Filter in Broadlands Park is still most unsatisfactory; the outflow water being often very offensive -

The general condition of the District was fairly good throughout the past year - the Mortality of the latter half was very small with an almost entire absence of Infante deaths. Nor was there any prevalence of illness - beyond those of ordinary ailments - after the subsidence of the Influenza Epidemic.

Some of the larger drains in the Winchester Road, which had become blocked, were cleaned out in the Spring - these drains really need regular periodical flushing to keep them clear

clear - the street cess-pools have been diligently emptied. Towards the close of the year, the mud was allowed to accumulate and to remain too long on the streets - a condition of things, stated by the Borough Surveyor to have been owing to a somewhat recent gravelling of the roads combined with a persistence of damp mild weather.

The pails of the closets are changed regularly twice a week - mostly if not wholly, at night - and twice a week the Public Scavenger removes all refuse from the ash and dust-bins.

Seventeen new pail-closets have been started during the year - making a total now of 359 in the whole urban District.

The total number of houses supplied with the S.H.W. Co's service in the Borough on December 31st was 569 - being an increase of 19 during the year: to the introduction of the water of this Company, to the substitution of pails for the old C.V.C. as well as to the removal of excreta and rubbish regularly out of the Town, I attribute the improved health and the diminished mortality of this District - 50 years ago the death-rate was 22 per 1000 living - whereas now it rarely exceeds 15 and last year was only 10! Fevers were formerly common - and Epidemics very fatal. Now Fevers rarely occur, and Epidemics, if they come, are shorn of their fatality.

The 60 deaths give an annual average death rate of slightly over 14 per 1000 living.

The 117 registered births give an annual average birth-rate of $25\frac{1}{2}$ (25.2) per 1000 living.

Table 1

Showing the cause of Death under 1 year of age, and between 1 year and 5 years of age					
Disease	under 1 year		1 year and under 5 years		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Broncho-Pneumonia	2	1	1		4
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	2	2			4
Diarrhoea		1			1
Convulsions	2				2
Pharyngo-Laryngitis		1			1
Gastro Enteritis	1				1
Tuberculosis			1		1
Total	7	5	2		14

Table 11

Showing the number of Deaths and Births in each Month and Quarter of 1895								
Month	Deaths				Births			
	M	F	Total for Month	Total for Quarter	M	F	Total for Month	Total for Quarter
January	2	3	5	26	5	9	14	28
February	3	5	8		2	5	7	
March	7	6	13		6	1	7	
April	2	2	4	14	1	6	7	38
May	1	3	4		8	6	14	
June	2	4	6		8	9	17	
July	1	2	3	10	4	9	13	35
August	1	-	1		3	2	5	
September	4	2	6		6	11	17	
October	2	1	3	10	2	2	4	16
November	-	4	4		3	2	5	
December	2	1	3		4	3	7	
Total	27	33	60	60	52	65	117	117


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Ladies

Yours truly

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Penney

Ubar District,

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality. See Note 5 on back.

* The heading of column 19 is left blank for the insertion of Influenza, or any other disease which it may be thought desirable to record.

NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*

2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*

3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*

4. *The "Localities" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships or wards.*

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmarys, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those registered as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, e.g., the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.*

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.	
Area in Acres	9700
Population (1891)	4276
Death Rates.	General 14.032 { per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1895.
	Infant (under one year of age) 102.564 { per 1,000 Births Registered.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

Francis J. Buckell Medical Officer of Health.

(Date) *February 14th*, 1896.

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Barnsey District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

[illegible]

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District Yes. Since when? December 1891 Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated There is one such Hospital

NOTES ON TABLE B.

(See also Notes on back of Table A.)

NOTE 1. The present *Table B.* is concerned with population, births, and sickness (not with mortality) in the district or division to which the Table relates.

2. As stated in the heading of Col. (a), *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the new cases of sickness in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received, are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

3. *Comments on any unequal incidence of notifiable disease upon the several localities, and considerations as to the local incidence of consumption and other prevalent diseases, should be made in the text of the Report.*